

This information is for education purposes only and does not serve as legal advice.

# 3 TIPS

## TO PREVENT YOUR **CRIMINAL HISTORY** FROM IMPACTING YOUR RENTAL APPLICATION



### Know Your Rights

There is no law that says a landlord must rent to you, but any landlord that bans everyone with a criminal record may be violating the Fair Housing Act if the ban falls more heavily on people of color. Contact a Fair Housing agency on the back of this flier if you think you have been discriminated against.



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### Tell Your Story

How long has it been since your criminal activity? What have you done since then? Are you working? Are you trying to care for a family? Get letters of support from your employer, clergy, or parole officer.



### Know The Facts

Having a good home is one of the things that keeps formerly incarcerated people from committing more crimes. Also, as time passes from their release from prison, and as they get older, people are less likely to be involved in criminal activity. Get more facts from “Rebuilding Lives on the Foundation of a Stable Home” [Click on this link to download the report.](#)

Contact one of the many agencies helping people with criminal histories rebuild their lives. Most counties have [Criminal Justice Advisory Boards](#) made up of government and nonprofit agencies working to help individuals involved in the criminal justice system. Some communities offer financial support and even housing opportunities for people recently released from jail or prison.

<p><b><a href="#">Summit Legal Services Fair Housing Law Center</a></b>          10 West Cherry Avenue          Washington, PA 15301          P: (724) 225-6170   F: 724-250-1078  <a href="https://fhlaw.org/">https://fhlaw.org/</a></p> <p>Hotline: 1-877-725-4472</p> <p><u>Serving These Counties:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armstrong</li> <li>• Beaver</li> <li>• Bedford</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blair</li> <li>• Butler</li> <li>• Cambria</li> <li>• Cameron</li> <li>• Centre</li> <li>• Clarion</li> <li>• Clearfield</li> <li>• Crawford</li> <li>• Elk</li> <li>• Erie</li> <li>• Fayette</li> <li>• Forest</li> <li>• Greene</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huntingdon</li> <li>• Indiana</li> <li>• Jefferson</li> <li>• Lawrence</li> <li>• McKean</li> <li>• Mercer</li> <li>• Potter</li> <li>• Somerset</li> <li>• Venango</li> <li>• Warren</li> <li>• Washington</li> <li>• Westmoreland</li> </ul>
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<p><b><a href="#">Housing Equality Center of Pennsylvania</a></b>          PO BOX 558          Fort Washington, PA 19034          Hotline: 866-540-FAIR   P: 267-419-8918  <a href="https://equalhousing.org">https://equalhousing.org</a></p>	<p><u>Serving These Counties:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lehigh</li> <li>• Bucks</li> <li>• Chester</li> <li>• Delaware</li> <li>• Montgomery</li> <li>• Northampton</li> <li>• Philadelphia</li> </ul>
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**[The Housing Equality & Equity Institute at Lancaster Housing Opportunity Partnership](#)**  
 308 E. King Street  
 Lancaster, PA 17602  
 P: 717-291-9945 | F: 717-291-9850  
<https://wearetenfold.org>

**[Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc.](#)**  
 2840 Liberty Avenue, Suite 205  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
 P: 412-391-2535 | F: 412-391-2647  
<https://pittsburghfairhousing.org>  
 Serving ALL 67 Counties

<p><b><a href="#">The Fair Housing Council of the Capital Region, Inc.</a></b>          2100 North 6th Street          Harrisburg, PA 17110          P: 717-238-9540  <a href="https://pafairhousing.org">https://pafairhousing.org</a></p>	<p><u>Serving These Counties:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumberland</li> <li>• Dauphin</li> </ul>
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